



Water Storage Investment Program: Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project Update

Introduction

The Commission is receiving project updates from Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) projects that have not recently been before the Commission to request early funding. These updates are intended to provide background information about WSIP projects before the project appears before the Commission for a feasibility determination, which, per statute, must be made by January 1, 2022. The Irvine Ranch Water District/Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District is developing a regional water bank in the Kern Fan area. The Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project would provide ecosystem improvements and emergency response benefits.

Background

Through the WSIP, the California Water Commission will invest nearly \$2.6 billion in the public benefits of water storage projects, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 1 (the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014), Chapter 8. In July 2018, the Commission made Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations, decisions that set the amount of Proposition 1 funding potentially available to a given project, for eight projects. Since then, one applicant has withdrawn from the program; the seven remaining applicants are working to complete the Proposition 1 requirements, which include obtaining permits and environmental documents, contracts for the administration of public benefits, and contracts for non-Proposition 1 funding, before returning to the Commission for a final award hearing.

This agenda item implements Goal Four of the Commission's Strategic Plan, which calls on the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibilities for WSIP.

Meeting Overview

At the June meeting, Fiona Sanchez, the Director of Water Resources for Irvine Ranch Water District and Project Manager for the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project, will provide an overview and discuss the status of the Project.

This is an informational item.

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